

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

ANNUAL INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CT-1196
Magi No.
DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Dukes Wharf

and/or common also called Sheridan Point Wharf

2. Location

street & number unimproved road off Sheridan Point Road, Sheridan Point not for publication

city, town Farm, Adelina X vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> X </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> X </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> X </u> private residence
<u> X </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> X </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name David M. and Mary S. Watson

street & number 6400 Sheridan Point Road telephone no.:

city, town Prince Frederick state and zip code MD 20678

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. M.D.A.T. liber ABE

street & number Goldstein BUilding, 200 Duke Street folio 786/ 673

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

 pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1196

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

Standing Wharf Structures: None.

Associated Standing Wharf Structures: None.

Description: Dukes Wharf is a historic wharf site with no visible features on land or above mean low water.

Previously Existing Wharf Structures: "Patuxent River, Maryland, God's Grace Pt. to Horse Landing Creek" 1860 revised 1908 depicts an "L" wharf perpendicular to the shore. This wharf appears to be present from the 1860 edition of the chart. "Nomini Folio" 1896 depicts a "T" wharf perpendicular to the shore with two standing structures near the wharf on shore. "Map of Calvert County Showing Topography and Election Districts" 1902 depicts a "L" wharf nearly perpendicular to the shore located at the end of an unimproved road with two structures located on the south side of the road near the shore. "Chart no. 19 Natural Oyster Bars Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles Counties, Maryland" 1908 and "Soil Map Calvert County" 1928 both depict the same shaped wharf and road but only one structure directly on the south side of the road on the water. "Patuxent River" chart 1934 reissued in 1938 depicts an "L" shaped wharf with a structure on the west side of the wharf head. "Mechanicsville Quadrangle" topographic map 1953 photo revised 1947 depicts an "L" shaped private pier at this landing; yet an aerial photograph dated 1938 shows no wharf. Interestingly, chart 24 in "Salt Water Sport Fishing and Boating In Maryland," no date, but probably circa mid 1970s, indicates "piling" near where Dukes Wharf was located, though it does not name the wharf nor show a road leading to it. No piles were visible during the land or water survey. "Mechanicsville Quadrangle" topographic map shows the 1944 pier but not the steamboat wharf.⁵⁵

CMM photograph P-531, undated, shows a "T" wharf with three structures erected on it, two on the "T" head and one along the north side of the wharf. There are no hand rails present. CMM photograph P-0378 depicts the steamboat *Lancaster* at Dukes Wharf but gives little detail. Photograph P-531 illustrates how map and chart depictions can be so simple compared to the actual situation. A wooden structure was once located just on shore from the wharf built on ironstone foundation stones. These stones were moved up the hill to near the house after the structure was destroyed.⁵⁶

in private ownership, copy deposited in collections of Calvert Marine Museum.

⁵⁵ Aerial photograph AHS 7-44, dated 1938, scale 1 inch equals 660 feet, Calvert Soil Conservation District, photostatic copy deposited at Calvert Marine Museum.

⁵⁶ Personal communication to Ralph Eshelman from David Watson, present owner of Sheridan Point Farm, August 26, 1996.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1196

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1822–1928

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Dukes Wharf is located on an unimproved road which runs north and then west off Sheridan Point Road, through the Sheridan Point Farm property. A former tobacco rolling road ran past the Sheridan Point Farmhouse down the hill to the Patuxent River just below Sheridan Point, approximately 17 miles above its mouth. A pier built in 1944 is located approximately 150 feet east of the original steamboat wharf location. During severe storms the steamboat wharf piling stubs are sometime visible on the beach. This wharf is named after the James Duke family who came to Maryland in 1634. Because this wharf is located at Sheridan Point it was also sometimes referred to as Sheridan Point Wharf.⁵⁷ A post office operated at Sheridan Point from at least 1878 to 1910 suggesting the steamboat operated during this span as well. Mrs. William H. Dowell, taking advantage of the steamer service, ran a boarding house at Sheridan Point in 1896. It was described as “one of the most delightfully situated homes of Calvert County. Large, Comfortable Rooms. Tables supplied with all the Delicacies of both Land and Water. Terms on application.”⁵⁸ A contemporary photograph of the William H. Dowell House is in the 1896 publication *Summer Homes and Historical Points Along the Routes of the Weems Steamboat Company*, page 58. The wharf was located on land now called Sheridan Point Farm (CT-37). In 1907 the wharf generated \$2,581.36 in local freight, \$41.15 in through freight, and \$894.95 for passengers, for a total revenue of \$3,517.46.⁵⁹

⁵⁷ Personal communication to Ralph Eshelman from David Watson, present owner of Sheridan Point Farm, August 26, 1996; Kenny, p. 82; and Holly, p. 264.

⁵⁸ *Summer Homes and Historical Points Along the Routes of the Weems Steamboat Company* (1896), p. 59.

⁵⁹ “Maryland Delaware & Virginia Railway Company Annual Report, Statement of Freight and Passenger Revenue by Wharves for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31st, 1907.” Original in private ownership, copy deposited in collections of Calvert Marine Museum.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-1196

See context study bibliography in "Calvert County Steamboat Wharves and Landings: Architectural Survey and Inventory."

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name MechanicsvilleQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph Eshelmanorganization Eshelman & Associatesdate December 19, 1996street & number 12178 Preston Dr.telephone 410-326-4877city or town Lusbystate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

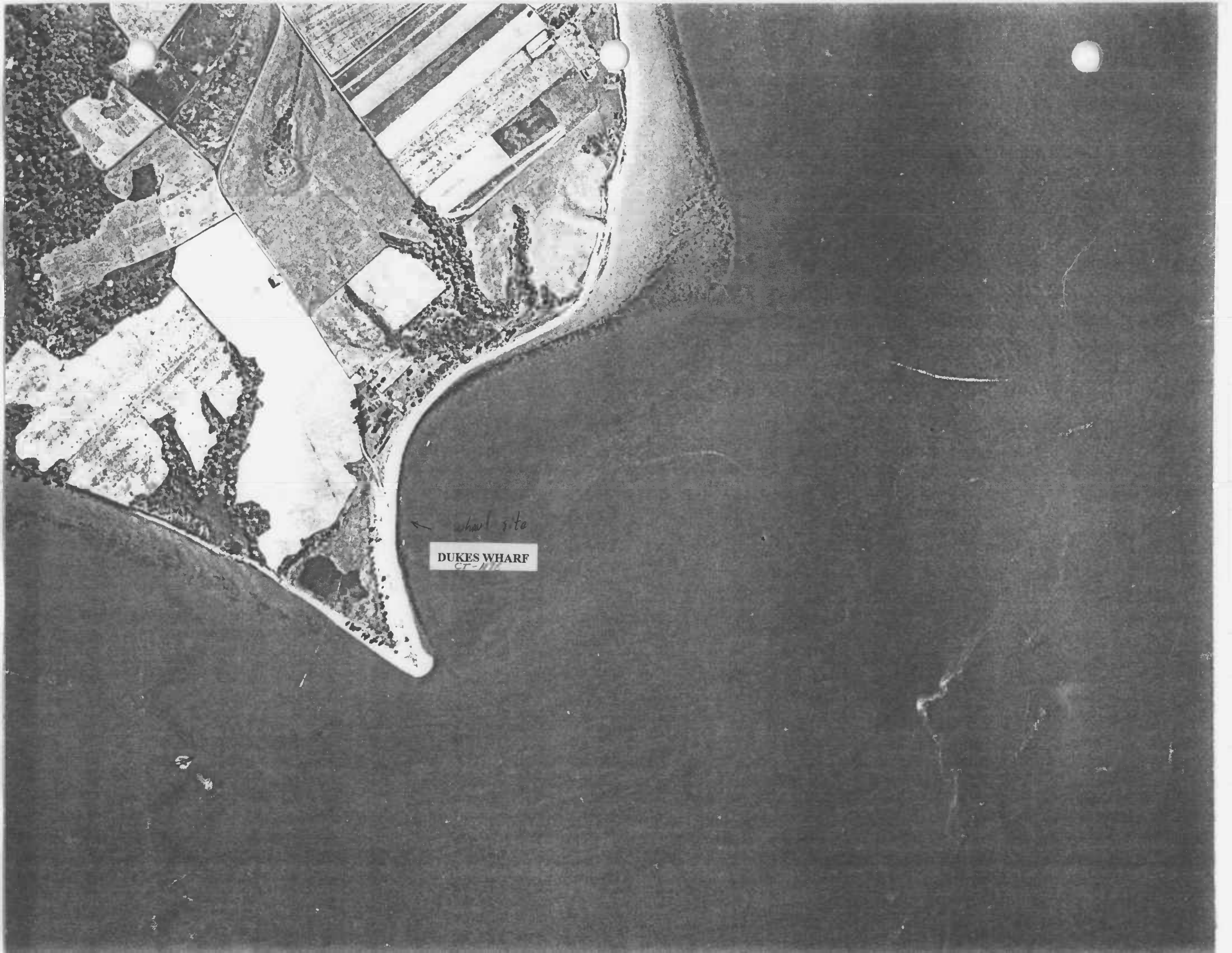
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
614-7600

Continuation Sheet 8.1 Dukes Wharf

Dukes Wharf is one of twenty historic steamboat wharf/landing sites identified in "Calvert County Steamboat Wharves and Landings: Architectural Level Survey and Inventory." This survey and inventory was completed in 1996 by Eshelman & Associates for the Calvert County Historic District Commission with funding from the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners. The final report includes a context study which places the historic significance of these steamboat wharf and landing sites within the broad pattern of local county history and regional history of the Chesapeake Bay. The study falls within the theme of "Transportation" within the time periods of "Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)" and "Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)." Refer to this study for a general historical review and historical significance of the resources as a whole.



← haul site

DUKES WHARF
CT-1116

Dukes Wharf

AHS

7-44

1938

Calvert Soil Conservation District

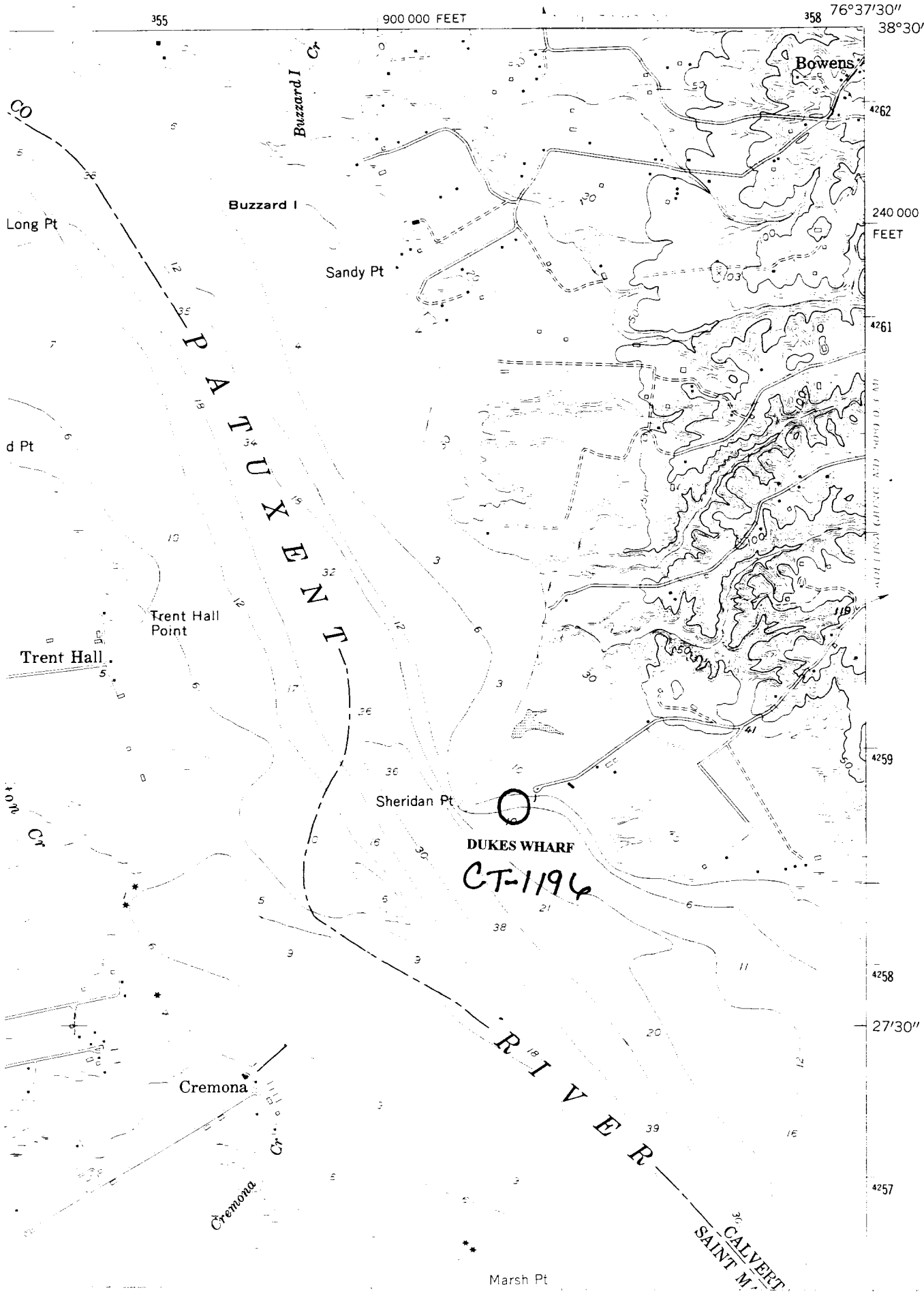
MECHANICSVILLE QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE

566 11 SE
(PRINCE FREDERICK)





CT- 1196

Dukes Wharf
Calvert Co., MD

Ralph Kislelman

Aug 1996

neg: MD SHPO

view NE of wharf site, 1944 pier and Sheridan Farm
House

Dukes Wharf